

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 32

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Wiley T. Bernard of Lebanon.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Mr. Wiley T. Bernard; and

WHEREAS, Wiley Bernard was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bernard was born November 5, 1913 to the late Wiley T. Bernard, Sr. and Hester Bernard of Covington; he graduated from Frazier High School in Covington and earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Tennessee State University in 1936 and a master's degree in poultry in 1959; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Wilson County, Wiley Bernard was a highly respected member of the Lebanon community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bernard served with acumen and alacrity for 33 years as the Wilson County Agricultural Extension Agent; his outstanding abilities in that position earned for him the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the people of Wilson County, Mr. Bernard's portrait hangs as a memorium in the offices of the Extension Service in Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, upon arrival in Wilson County, Wiley Bernard was first assigned to work only with black farmers; by the time that the current Wilson County Courthouse was built, in the 1960s, he was working with both black and white farmers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bernard led a successful 4-H program and organized about 18 community improvement clubs; his energetic and innovative work in agricultural extension resulted in his induction into the Agricultural Hall of Fame at Tennessee State University in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Wiley Bernard was an active and devout member of the Winters Chapel A.M.E. Church, which he served faithfully for many years as Trustee, Sunday School Superintendent, and President of the Lay Organization; prior to his arrival in Lebanon in 1946, he belonged to Collins Chapel A.M.E. Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bernard was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Wiley Bernard enjoyed the loving companionship of Hazel A. Bernard and was the proud parent of three step-children, 11 step-grandchildren, and seven step-great-grandchildren; he was the fond uncle of Earlis Bernard; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bernard leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mr. Wiley T. Bernard, reflecting fondly upon his

impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Wiley Bernard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.